



Cleanup Progresses at Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Superfund Site

Blooming Grove, Wisconsin

May 1999

Introduction

This fact sheet provides information on the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (Madison Metro site) cleanup activities. It also provides sources for additional information.

Background

The Madison Metro site in Blooming Grove, Wisconsin, consists of two lagoons covering approximately 140 acres. These lagoons were constructed in the 1940s and 1960s to provide storage for sewerage sludge generated at the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant. Concern at the site first arose in April 1970 when part of one of the lagoon dikes collapsed releasing about 85 million gallons of sewage sludge to an adjacent ditch. The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (Sewerage District) subsequently repaired the dike.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Sewerage District, which is funding the cleanup, have been working together to clean up the site.

Summary of Cleanup Activities

The Record of Decision (ROD), the document detailing the cleanup, was finalized by U.S. EPA in March 1997. The cleanup will be completed in three phases and will include:

- ◆ constructing a dike to isolate and consolidate sludge containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) levels at or above 50 parts per million (ppm) (the legal limit allowed by the federal Toxic Substances Control Act [TSCA]);
- ◆ covering certain lagoon areas with soil and then seeding those areas;
- ◆ monitoring lagoon sludge and maintaining a soil cover; and
- ◆ placing deed restrictions on the property to control future land use.

Although the legal agreement between U.S. EPA and the Sewerage District was not presented in U.S. District Court until May 1998, the Sewerage District had been working on the cleanup since mid-1997. By November 1997, U.S. EPA had approved the Sewerage District's design and work plans, so cleanup could begin in early 1998 during the coldest time of the winter season. All cleanup activities occur during the winter months because the sludge is easier to handle when it has hardened. Work continued in the winter months of 1998 and 1999. The entire cleanup is expected to be done by late 2000.

For More Information

If you have questions about the Madison Metro site, please contact:

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www.epa.gov/region5

The ROD, consent decree (legal agreement), and other site-related information is available in the following information repositories:

Madison Public Library
201 W. Mifflin Street
Madison, WI



Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District
1610 Moorland Road
Madison, WI

An administrative record file, which contains the information upon which the selection of the cleanup plan was based, is also available at the library.



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